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ratively recently published *Crania Selecta*, were geometrical drawings. He (Mr. Higgins) would also venture to cite the name of Dr. Paul Broca, who had himself designed an instrument for giving projections of the skull, and had ably advocated the importance of such projections in his paper "Sur les projections de la tête." As to the rough character of Lucae's drawings in the *Zur Architectur des Menschenschädel*, it was right to say that they were taken many years ago, before Lucae had invented the instrument which had been exhibited that night. Mr. Collingwood had stated, what no one would more readily allow than Dr. Lucae himself, that the instrument exhibited was capable of improvement; and he (Mr. Higgins) might mention that a most important improvement had recently been suggested to him, which although it would considerably increase the cost, would, he believed, remove all the practical objections which could be urged against the instrument. In reference to the question of Mr. Brookes, as to the object of measuring and drawing skulls, Mr. Higgins remarked that the first stage of every science is the classificatory; that skulls present us with a large series of phenomena, amongst others, diversity of form; and that we must, as a first step towards a knowledge of the cause of such diversities, adopt some means of recording and classifying them. If it be asked why we fix upon the skull for our special study, the answer is that there is no other group of bones in the skeleton which presents the same complexity and consequent capacity for exhibiting varieties of form and structure.

Mr. WESLEY briefly replied to some of the remarks on his paper; and, referring to the Neanderthal skull, he observed that some of the misapprehensions respecting the condition of its sutures had been founded on an imperfect photograph sent to England by Dr. Fuhlrott.

At the conclusion of the discussion on the two papers, Dr. G. D. Gibb begged to make a remark on the photographs of the hands of the negro boy from Bunu, which had been exhibited, and which had been stated to show indications of his being web-footed. Dr. Gibb said that the photographs did not show anything of the kind, for the hand was in every respect well formed.

Mr. HIGGINS said that on examining the hands of the boy it would be seen that the loose skin between the knuckles was further down than is usually the case in the hand of a European.

Mr. C. CARTER BLAKE begged to coincide with Mr. Higgins's statement, and reaffirmed the fact which he had laid before the Society.

Mr. C. CARTER BLAKE then read a paper on *Certain Simious Skulls, with especial reference to a Skull from Louth, in Ireland*. (This paper will appear at length in the *Memoirs*, with illustrations.)

The paper gave a minute description of a skull which had been presented to the museum of the Society by Capt. Montgomery Moore, and which exhibited a condition of the sutures closely resembling the conditions in the skull "No. 1029 of Davis," and the skull from the Neanderthal. The sagittal, coronal, and peri-sphenoid sutures were all more or less closed, probably in early life, and Mr. Blake thought that this premature synostosis had been the cause why the brain,

which had to expand under a plate of bone in one solid piece, developed a form of skull of great length, and with a large posterior and small frontal development. Mr. Blake added that he had not subjoined to the paper the usual table of measurements, as he preferred to postpone giving the tables, and to submit a detached comparison of forty or fifty skulls together, according to the plan that had been adopted by M. Pruner-Bey in the Anthropological Society of Paris.

The CHAIRMAN remarked, that after the elaborate papers read that evening, they should return thanks to the authors of them, especially to Mr. Higgins, for having removed the reproach that they were only a semi-scientific Society.

Mr. HIGGINS observed that Professor Huxley had lately impugned the statements made at the meetings of the Society as to the form of the Neanderthal skull having been produced by the premature closing of the sutures, and the interest of the paper just read consisted in its establishing the fact that a similar closing of the sutures, accompanied by a similar form of skull, appeared on the specimen before the meeting. He wished Mr. Blake had compared exactly the contours and dimensions of the two skulls, and had stated in detail the differences as to the closing of the sutures; because we should then have been able to test the premature-synostosis theory by applying to these cases the well-ascertained law that such synostosis hinders the expansion of the skull in the direction at right angles to the suture affected. He failed to see that any evidence had been adduced to show that the closing of the sutures had taken place in early life; and he asked why the peculiarity of form should not be regarded as a race character?

Mr. MACKENZIE said that when Mr. Blake read the same paper at the meeting of the British Association at Birmingham, Dr. Barnard Davis had stated he fully agreed with Mr. Blake in every respect in his remarks on the Neanderthal skull, as reported in the *Transactions* of the Society.

The CHAIRMAN asked whether anything peculiar had been discovered on the skull, and whether it bore any of the monkish characters which were said to mark what had been called "apostles' skulls"?

Mr. C. CARTER BLAKE referred to a paper of Dr. Thurnam, recently published in the *Natural History Review*, in which he gave the measurements of early British skulls, and pointed out the numerous instances of synostosis observed by him. Dr. Davis, in his paper on the subject, observed that they exhibit indications of this peculiar deformation having taken place at an early period of life, and he had reasserted that opinion in a quarto volume since published. To that work he (Mr. Blake) begged to refer; and he expressed the belief that the skull presents a certain abnormal form that had been produced by premature closing of sutures. If the peculiarities were of race character, how was it that so few skulls of that form have been discovered? But M. Pruner-Bey says the

Neanderthal skull belonged to a race of Celts, who are by no means an extinct race; it was therefore far more possible and likely that the abnormal form was produced by the closing of the sutures than that the skull was the "missing link" between man and the lower animals. He considered the Neanderthal skull, as an indication of race, to be "lost, lost, irretrievably lost."

The meeting then adjourned.

MARCH 20TH, 1866.

JAMES HUNT, ESQ., PH.D., F.S.A., F.R.S.L., PRESIDENT, IN THE CHAIR.

The minutes of the preceding meeting were read and confirmed.

The following gentlemen were announced to have been elected fellows and Local Secretaries:—Thomas Wilkinson, Esq., 7, Falkner-street, Liverpool; Joseph Gill, Esq., Lagos, W. Africa; Robinson Hudson, Esq., L.R.C.S., Southampton; Lieut. Wilberforce Clarke, R.E., Stanton Rectory, Winchcombe, Gloucester. *Local Secretary*.—Henry Mills, Esq., F.R.G.S., Abeokuta, W. Africa.

The donations to the library since the last meeting were announced as under:—Lawrence, Blumenbach; Blumenbach, *Abbildungen naturhistorischer Gegenstände*; Gabet, *Traité élémentaire de l'homme*; Bory de St. Vincent, *Essai Zoologique sur le genre humain*; Cabanis, *Rapports du physique et du moral*; Hodgson, *Aborigines of India*; Lacépède, *Histoire Naturelle de l'homme*; Tableau naturel des rapports qui existent entre Dieu et l'Univers; Haworth, *Anatomy*; Stewart, *Philosophy of Sense*; Williams, *Missionary Enterprises in the South Sea Islands*; Rivero and Tschudi, *Peruvian Antiquities*; White, *Regular Gradation in Man*; Wilson, *Missionary Voyage to South Pacific*; Forster, *Voyage Round the World*; Jarrold, *Form and Colour of Man*; Marsden, *History of Sumatra*; Lacépède, *Agés de la Nature*; Camper, *Orang-outang*; H. Spencer, *Principles of Biology*; Stuart ii Kuyber, *Der Mensch*; de Luc, *Letters of Geology*; Frankenaer, *Palingenesia*; Reaumur, *Art of hatching Fowls*; Derham, *Physico-Theology*; Leslie, *Early Races of Scotland*; Strauss, *Life of Jesus*. (The above works presented by T. Bendyshe, Esq., V.P.A.S.L.) *Transactions of the Ethnol. Society*, vol. iv (the Society); *Smithsonian Report*, 1864 (the Institution); *Eisothermism* (the author); *Social Science Review* (G. A. Hutchison, Esq.); *Girdle worn by Mpongwe women* (R. B. N. Walker, Esq.); *Food, use, and beauty of British Birds* (C. O. Groom Napier, Esq.); J. E. Morgan, Esq., *Danger of Deterioration of Race* (the author); *Remarkable Embassies of the East India Company of the United Netherlands to Japan* (A. Higgins, Esq.).

Mr. C. CARTER BLAKE directed attention to a collection of skulls on the table, and to some bronze implements which he said Captain Tupper would explain.

Captain A. C. TUPPER said: We are indebted to Mr. Layton, jun. (now present) for the exhibition of the specimens upon the table, and I